



April 9, 2025
(2023-005.07/006)

Mr. Allen Xie
Los Angeles County Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: AXie@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: March 2025 Summary of Least Bell's Vireo Breeding Season Surveys for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, in the City of Pasadena, California

Dear Mr. Xie,

This letter report has been prepared to summarize the results of the breeding season focused surveys for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) conducted in March 2025 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Public Works' Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project in the City of Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California. The focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted to comply with Condition 7.3.4 in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2016-031-05 that was issued for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project (Project) which states that if Covered Activities are proposed during the least Bell's vireo breeding season (defined as March 1 to September 15):

"The Designated Biologist(s) shall continue weekly focused surveys within 500 feet of Covered Activities in Covered Species habitat during the breeding season to determine the presence of Covered Species;"

Weekly focused least Bell's vireo surveys began on March 4, 2025 and are summarized below.

SURVEY METHODS

Focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in compliance with ITP Condition 7.3.4 and Section 7 Conservation Measure CM 11b for Project activities that are to occur during the vireo's breeding season (March 1 to September 15). Surveys were conducted between dawn and 11 a.m. when weather conditions were favorable in accordance with USFWS 2001 protocol (nesting season) guidelines.¹ Meandering transects were walked throughout suitable least Bell's vireo habitat areas within 500 feet of the Project boundaries to visually and audibly detect the presence of least Bell's vireo. All bird and wildlife species detected during the survey were recorded on standardized data sheets. All surveys were conducted in compliance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan prepared for the Project.²

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2001. Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines. U.S. Department of the Interior. Carlsbad, CA, USFWS, 3 pp.

² ECORP Consulting, Inc (ECORP). 2019. Nesting Bird Management Plan, Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, Los Angeles County, California. Prepared for the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Water Resource Division. March 2019.

RESULTS

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during March 2025. Each survey was conducted by a CDFW- and USFWS-approved Designated Biologist for least Bell's vireo surveys. The dates, personnel, and weather conditions for each survey are presented in Table 1. Field survey datasheets are provided in Attachment A.

| Table 1. Weather Conditions During Surveys | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|------|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Date | Surveyors* | Time | | Temperature (°F) | | Cloud Cover (%) | | Wind Speed (mph) | |
| | | start | end | start | end | start | end | start | end |
| 3/4/25 | CM | 0645 | 1000 | 50 | 56 | 95 | 50 | 1-3 | 1-3 |
| 3/14/25 | SD | 0700 | 1100 | 39 | 45 | 100 | 100 | 0-1 | 0-1 |
| 3/20/25 | CM | 0710 | 1045 | 51 | 57 | 20 | 0 | 0-2 | 0-2 |
| 3/24/25 | JC | 0715 | 1000 | 62 | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |


CM= Carla Marriner, SD = Shelby Dunn, JC = Jill Courmoutso

No least Bell's vireos or brown-headed cowbirds were observed by Designated Biologists during the March 2025 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in March 2025. No observations of least Bell's vireo were made during the focused breeding season surveys. Weekly focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo will continue until the end of the breeding season (September 15) to support ongoing habitat restoration activities occurring at the Project site.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter report, please contact me at (619) 455-1134 or cgarcia@ecorpconsulting.com.

SIGNED: 

Caroline Garcia
Staff Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
111 Academy Way, Suite 210
Irvine, CA 92617

DATE: April 9, 2025

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Carla Marriner

Submitted Time: 03/04/2025 12:38 PM

| | Time | Temperature (°F) | Wind Range (MPH) | Cloud Cover (%) |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Start of Day | 06:45 | 50°F | 1-3 MPH | 95 % |
| End of Day | 10:00 | 56 °F | 1-3 MPH | 50 % |

Date Observed

March 4, 2025

Observer Name

Carla Marriner

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

NA

Additional Notes

NA

Incidental Species Observed

CASJ CALT NUWO CATH MODO TUVU SOSP RCPA BUSH MALL KILL BLHE CORA BEWR HOFI SPTO
BLPH OATI LEGO ACWO NOMO NOFL YRWA AMRO RCKI Western fence lizard Ca ground squirrel Cottontail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Shelby Dunn

Submitted Time: 03/14/2025 1:21 PM

| | Time | Temperature (°F) | Wind Range (MPH) | Cloud Cover (%) |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Start of Day | 07:00 | 39°F | 0-1 MPH | 100 % |
| End of Day | 11:00 | 45 °F | 0-1 MPH | 100 % |

Date Observed

March 14, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

0800 began to sprinkle very lightly and intermittently

0846 began to rain lightly, but birds are still active

0900 precipitation turned back into a light sprinkle that was intermittent throughout the remainder of the survey with gaps up to 30 min with no precipitation

Incidental Species Observed

LEGO CAKI BEWR BUSH AMCR SOSP AMRO CATH RNDU Parrot sp NUWO ACWO OATI HOFI TUVU ALHU
MALL CASJ CANG ANHU COHA MODO GBHE AMCO NOMO BLPH SPTO CAQU KILL RCKI DEJU CORA WCSP
BGGN YRWA RSHA desert cotton tail California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Carla Marriner

Submitted Time: 03/20/2025 1:24 PM

| | Time | Temperature (°F) | Wind Range (MPH) | Cloud Cover (%) |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Start of Day | 07:10 | 51°F | 0-2 MPH | 20 % |
| End of Day | 10:45 | 57 °F | 0-2 MPH | 0 % |

Date Observed

March 20, 2025

Observer Name

Carla Marriner

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

BEWR BUSH CORA CALT NUWO MALL BLPH NOMO ANHU MODO KILL YRWA RSHA SOSP CAKI CATH
TUVU CAQU LEGO CASJ OATI WCSP Desert cottontail California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso

Submitted Time: 03/24/2025 2:13 PM

| | Time | Temperature (°F) | Wind Range (MPH) | Cloud Cover (%) |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Start of Day | 07:15 | 62°F | 0 MPH | 0 % |
| End of Day | 10:00 | 72 °F | 0 MPH | 0 % |

Date Observed

March 24, 2025

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

SPTO HOFI AMCR WCSP CAQU MODO CATH CALT SOSP YRWA KILL CASJ OATI CORA ACWO GTGR LEGO
CANG DEJU BLPH BUSH NOFL ANHU MALL RCKI BEWR OCWA GREG Red-crowned parrot Desert Cottontail CA
ground squirrel Westwn fence lizard